

# Newsletter

Summer 2020



First and foremost I do hope that you are all well and staying safe. I have not heard of any member being seriously unwell – Covid or other health issue – but if you know of anyone who is poorly please do inform me.

This is a strange time to be writing a Newsletter! The club has not met since March and all our planned events have therefore not taken place but I am delighted that so many of you are regularly playing bridge on line. The club has 50 of its members registered on BBO, with many of you playing several times a week. These include a number of 2019 and 2020 “students” and it has been great to see so many of those really improving by playing regularly. Playing the game is the best way of learning and whilst I, and others, will always be ready to give advice or explanation of anything you find difficult or on a particular hand it is only by experiencing the game itself that knowledge is gained and improvement occurs. So, well done to all those “newbies”!

Despite the lockdown and this awful virus, or perhaps because of it, I have actually been quite busy dealing with a number of club and related issues with both the County and the EBU and I have been greatly assisted by the Committee for their input and advice on a number of matters. We have of course regularly discussed the possibility of re-opening but are certain that this is not the time to seriously consider it, however much we might wish to play F2F (Face to Face) bridge again. A very few clubs nationally have re-opened. These are mostly clubs that have their own premises and can therefore be certain everywhere is sanitised (as opposed to simply being told by someone that it has). There are no breaks for coffee and / or a chat; masks have to be worn throughout; greater distancing; screens to separate all four players at the table and so on. A County questionnaire asked if every player would be prepared to play on a tablet or laptop etc so that the cards do not circulate. We can do that now in the comfort of our own home, so I don't see us at the Hall for that! I also think the insurance position of the Club needs greater clarification before re-opening, but the committee will review the situation regularly though it is difficult to envisage F2F bridge at PBDC until at least early 2021.

Sadly this means that there will be no Christmas Meal or Party this year, but I will give some thought as to whether it is possible for many of us to meet on line one evening, perhaps through Zoom, so we can “share” a drink! Also, perhaps a little sadder for me personally, is that October 11<sup>th</sup> will be the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club and I had in mind we would do something special to mark the occasion but that will not now be possible. Those years have flown by and I never thought in 2000 that I would still be Chairman twenty years later! We obviously will not be able to hold the AGM in November. We could possibly do so by way of Zoom in order to get a quorum but the Committee have yet to consider doing that versus delaying the AGM until next year and I will be discussing that with them shortly.

It can be easy to get a little depressed as to the future of Club Bridge. Clearly the impacts of Corona have been, and will continue to be, a major challenge to clubs, the EBU and the County Associations but we should try to remain positive. A significant number of members are playing bridge, albeit on line. Some of our past students who are not playing on BBO are in regular contact with me and tell me they are playing on other sites, such as No Fear Bridge in order to continue to learn. I have had enquiries regarding running on line bridge courses, and so on. So there is still an appetite for the game and whether that takes place at home or in a club is secondary to the fact that people still want to play! I remain hopeful that at some time in the future we will resume F2F bridge but quite when, and whether there will be accompanying structural changes within the game, who knows?

So, there it is - a much shorter Newsletter than usual but can I end by reminding everyone that if you haven't yet tried on line bridge please do so. Many members have said that they were very sceptical but now enjoy it enormously and really look forward to their games, so try it. Also, please stay in touch with each other!

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**Thank you for your support**

Some old humour:

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why you don't ever see the headline: "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Why "abbreviated" is such a long word?                      Why Doctors call what they do "practice"?

Why you have to click on "Start" to stop Windows?

Why lemon juice is made with artificial flavour, while dishwashing liquid is made with real lemons?

Why the man who invests all your money is called a "Broker"?

Why there isn't mouse flavoured cat food?

Who tastes dog food when it has a "new & improved" flavour?

Why they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

Why they don't make the whole plane out of the material used for the indestructible black box?

Why sheep don't shrink when it rains?

Why they are called apartments when they are all stuck together?

Why they call the airport "the terminal" if flying is so safe?

AND...

In case you need further proof that the human race is doomed because of stupidity, here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods.

On a Myer hairdryer:  
"Do not use while sleeping".

On a bag of Chips:  
You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside.

On a bar of Palmolive soap:  
"Directions: Use like regular soap". (And that would be how???)

On some frozen dinners: "Serving suggestion: Defrost".

On Nanna's Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom): "Do not turn upside down".

On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding: "Product will be hot after heating".

On packaging for a K-Mart iron: "Do not iron clothes on body".

On Boot's Children Cough Medicine: "Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication".

On Nytol Sleep Aid: "Warning: May cause drowsiness".

On a Swedish Chainsaw: "Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands or genitals".

**STAY SAFE**

**Thank you for your support – if you have a new or changed email address please let me know**